

Introduced by Senators Romero, Alquist, Bowen, Cedillo, Chesbro, Cox, Denham, Ducheny, Dunn, Dutton, Escutia, Figueroa, Florez, Kehoe, Kuehl, Lowenthal, Machado, Migden, Murray, Ortiz, Perata, Scott, Simitian, Soto, Speier, and Torlakson

April 19, 2005

Senate Resolution No. 12—Relative to Denim Day California.

1 WHEREAS, California and other states have declared April as
2 “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and the California Coalition
3 Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) has declared April 27,
4 2005, as “Denim Day California”; and
5 WHEREAS, Both events are intended to draw attention to the
6 fact that rape and sexual assault remain serious issues in our
7 society; and
8 WHEREAS, Harmful attitudes about rape and sexual assault
9 allow these crimes to persist and allow survivors to be
10 revictimized through victim-blaming attitudes and unresponsive
11 government systems; and
12 WHEREAS, California is a national leader within the judicial,
13 criminal justice, medical, rape crisis, and health communities in
14 promoting victim-centered approaches to victims of crime; and
15 WHEREAS, “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and “Denim
16 Day California” are also intended as methods of calling attention
17 to misconceptions and misinformation about rape and sexual
18 assault, as well as the problem that many in our society remain
19 disturbingly uninformed about assault and forcible rape; and
20 WHEREAS, Wearing jeans during Sexual Assault Awareness
21 Month became an international symbol of protest of harmful
22 attitudes about rape in 1999, in response to an Italian Supreme

1 Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the victim
2 wore jeans. The justices reasoned that the victim must have
3 assisted her attacker in removing her jeans, which they felt
4 implied consent. Women of the Italian Legislature protested the
5 decision by wearing jeans. As news of the decision spread, so did
6 the protest; and

7 WHEREAS, Every year since 1999, Denim Day has been
8 recognized and individuals have been encouraged to make a
9 social statement with their fashion statement and wear jeans as a
10 visible means of protest against myths that surround sexual
11 assault; and

12 WHEREAS, The importance of this issue is underlined by
13 statistics indicating that approximately one in four women and
14 one in ten men are raped in adulthood and the sexual assault
15 victimization rate for youths under 18 years of age has been
16 documented at one in four for girls and one in six for boys; and

17 WHEREAS, With proper education on the matter, there is
18 compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing
19 incidents of this alarming and psychologically damaging crime;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The Legislature strongly supports the efforts of
22 CALCASA to educate persons in our community about the true
23 impact of rape and sexual assault in California; now, therefore,
24 be it

25 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That April
26 27, 2005, be recognized as “Denim Day California” and
27 everyone is encouraged to wear jeans on that day to help
28 communicate the message that there is no excuse for, and never
29 an invitation to, rape and sexual assault; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
31 this resolution to the author for distribution.